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Alexandria, VA 22304

April 23, 1985

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for the birthday gift. We haven't used it yet but an opportunity should soon arise. I thought finishing my class would be a birthday gift, but I'm working harder than ever on Vickie's Cobol program. The last night of class we were to be prepared to give a talk on our term papers. The professor asked for volunteers and said, "going once, going twice,..." so I raised my hand and went first. It doesn't bother me to stand up before a group but some of the other students were very nervous.

The Emerald City Marathon course looks like fun and I hope to run it some time. I believe the original Seattle Marathon is in November but it surely is always raining then. Our weather has been hot and dry for several days with 93 degrees yesterday. We go running in the morning and I, at least, spend the day in a well-air conditioned office. And since we keep the apartment comfortable the heat doesn't really affect us.

Last Friday I drove to Fredericksburg for settlement on the rental house in Colonial Beach. The owner, a 90 year-old Philippino was there with, I guess, his girlfriend who was perhaps ten years younger. He seems perfectly healthy and mentally alert, but apparently he has been persuaded not to live alone. On Saturday evening we drove to Fredericksburg again and stopped for a stroll through the Mary Washington College campus. All the dogwoods are in bloom and the campus is very attractive.

For some time I have been receiving magazine subscriptions which I have not ordered. Someone has entered them in my name for some reason. It isn't any real problem; I just indicate on the bill that I didn't order the magazine. In any case, the enclosed article is from one of those magazines.

I was sorry to hear about Diane's cat and hope they get another very soon. We are looking forward to their visit which is rapidly approaching.

Tomorrow night we are going to a performance of Italian Renaissance music at the Smithsonian. It is preceded by a lecture and should be fun.

When I get a chance I play around with my spreadsheet to do financial planning. I have enclosed a graph to show you its plotting capabilities.

Love,

*Jim & Vickie*